

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 ^{sub} 1. (amended) Method for identifying a momentary acoustic scene, said method
2 including
3 - an extraction, during an extraction phase, of characteristic features from an
4 acoustic signal captured by at least one microphone (2a, 2b), and
5 - an identification, during an identification phase, of the momentary acoustic
6 scene on the basis of the extracted characteristics,
7 wherein at least auditory-based characteristics are identified during the extraction phase.

1 2. (amended) Method as in claim 1, wherein, for the identification of the
2 characteristic features during the extraction phase, Auditory Scene Analysis (ASA)
3 techniques are employed.

1 3. (amended) Method as in claim 1, wherein, during the identification phase, Hidden
2 Markov Model (HMM) techniques are employed for the identification of the momentary
3 acoustic scene.

1 4. (amended) Method as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the following auditory
2 characteristics are identified during the extraction of said characteristic features: loudness,
3 spectral pattern, harmonic structure, common build-up and decay processes, coherent
4 amplitude modulations, coherent frequency modulations, coherent frequency transitions and
5 binaural effects.

1 5. (amended) Method as in claim 1, wherein any other suitable characteristics are
2 identified in addition to the auditory characteristics.

1 6. (amended) Method as claim 1, wherein the auditory and any other characteristics
2 are grouped along Gestalt theory principles.

1 7. (amended) Method as in claim 6, wherein the extraction of characteristics and/or
2 the grouping of the characteristics are performed either in context-free or in context-sensitive
3 fashion, taking into account additional information or hypotheses relative to a signal content
4 and thus providing an adaptation to the acoustic scene.

1 8. (amended) Method as in claim 1, wherein, during the identification phase, data are
2 accessed which were acquired in an off-line training phase.

1 9. (amended) Method as in claim 1, wherein, the extraction phase and the
2 identification phase take place in continuous fashion or at regular or irregular time intervals.

1 10. (amended) Application of the method per one of the claims 1 to 9 for tuning a
2 hearing device to a momentary acoustic scene.

1 11. (amended) Application as in claim 10, wherein, on the basis of a detected
2 momentary acoustic scene, a program or a transmission function between at least one
3 microphone (2a, 2b) and a receiver (6) in the hearing device (1) is selected.

1 12. (amended) Application as in claim 10, wherein any other available function can
2 be triggered in the hearing device (1) on the basis of the identified momentary acoustic scene.

1 14. (amended) Hearing device (1) with a transmission unit (4) whose input end is
2 connected to at least one microphone (2a, 2b) and whose output end is functionally connected
3 to a receiver (6), characterized in that an input signal of the transmission unit (4) is
4 simultaneously fed to a signal analyzer (7) for an extraction of at least auditory
5 characteristics, that the signal analyzer (7) is functionally connected to a signal identifier unit
6 (8) in which a momentary acoustic scene is identified, and that the signal identifier unit (8) is
7 functionally connected to the transmission unit (4) for the selection of a program or a
8 transmission function.

17. (amended) Hearing device (1) as in claim 16, characterized in that the user input unit (11) is functionally connected to the control unit (9).

18. (amended) Hearing device (1) as in claim 14, characterized in that it is provided with suitable means serving to transfer parameters from a training unit (10) to the signal identifier unit (8).